

Fortieth

Anniversary

CATHOLIC



RADICAL

“...to foster a society based on creed instead of greed.” Peter Maurin

June/July 2026

Price: For whatever it's worth.

Editor's Note: We celebrate our 40th anniversary of publication on June 5th, a month before America celebrates its 250th anniversary. Although the first American pope was invited to the White House for the occasion, Pope Leo has chosen instead to go to Lampedusa to highlight the island's role as a key entry point to Europe for migrants in the Mediterranean. He will offer Mass for migrants everywhere. No flag waving, no fireworks, no jingoistic bluster about the US being number one for Pope Leo. Instead, the pontiff is celebrating a value central to the American dream, a value best depicted by Emma Lazarus in her 1883 poem "The New Colossus." Like Pope Leo, Lazarus was a voice for refugees at a time when many Americans believed our nation belonged only to white Protestants. A bronze plaque of Lazarus' poem was added to the Statue of Liberty in 1903. Like Pope Leo, we celebrate the American ideal it honors.



The New Colossus

by Emma Lazarus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glowes world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!” Ω



Israel

by Scott Schaeffer-Duffy

Since October 7, 2023, the Israeli military has killed over 78,000 Palestinians in Gaza, many of them after signing a ceasefire. The United Nations estimates that 59.1% of those killed were women or children. Israelis killed 1,700 Palestinian healthcare workers and 260 journalists. An untold number of Palestinian children have died from malnutrition while Israel continues to blockade the delivery of sufficient quantities of food and water. Israel destroyed or damaged 90% of housing in Gaza, displacing 2 million people, causing at least 15 infants to die from exposure. To hide its crimes, Israel bans international journalists in Gaza.

At the same time, in the West Bank, the Israeli military has killed more than 1,000 Palestinians and demolished over 6,000 Palestinian homes or businesses. 4,781 Palestinians are being held without charge in Israel. B'tselem, the Israeli human rights organization, describes the prisons where Palestinians are detained as “a network of torture camps.”

Since its invasion of Lebanon on March 2, 2026, the Israeli military has killed over 3,020 Lebanese, at least 210 of them children, while Hezbollah has killed 18 Israeli soldiers and 2 civilians. Israeli military strikes displaced 1.2 million Lebanese. Up to 62,000 Lebanese homes have been destroyed in a campaign Israel calls “Operation Eternal Darkness.”

On April 5, 2026, *National Public Radio* reported that the Israeli military in Lebanon killed 54 medics when they arrived to help injured civilians. Human Rights Watch researcher Ramzi Kaiss

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Israel

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called the attacks “war crimes.”

On April 30, 2026, in international waters off Crete, the Israeli military stopped 22 boats of a civilian flotilla



A Palestinian in Gaza City on October 11, 2023, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

attempting to deliver medical and humanitarian aid to Gaza. Israel seized 180 activists. Many of the activists were beaten and brutally mistreated. Thirty were later hospitalized for injuries like broken ribs. Most were released on Crete, while two were taken to Israel. The UN demanded the activists' release, which didn't occur until May 10th.

On May 4, 2026, *National Public Radio* reported ongoing Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem. After their homes are demolished, Palestinians are billed the cost of their demolition.. Their land is then given to Jewish settlers.

On May 10, 2026, in a *New York Times* article entitled, “Town After Town in South Lebanon, Blasted to the Ground,” Israel's campaign to ethnically cleanse southern Lebanon is detailed. A day later, the *Times* reported that a family of eight, which evacuated from their home to avoid Israeli attacks, were killed without warning in a presumed safe zone. According to the newspaper, “More than 450 people in Lebanon have been killed since the ceasefire was announced.”

On May 18, Israel seized 50 boats of another flotilla trying to deliver aid

to Gaza. Among the 400 activists Israel detained was Dr. Margaret Connolly MD, the sister of Irish president.

The World Population Review ranks Israel the world's 5th most racist country. Since the apartheid regime ran South Africa, humanity has seldom seen a government more dedicated to the supremacy of one group of people and oppression of another as Israel. The Zionist goal of creating, enlarging, and perpetuating a Jewish state, in a region where most residents are not Jewish, relies on oppression, deprivation, forced expulsion, obliteration of civilian infrastructure, and mass killing.

The time is long overdue for the US to cut military and economic aid to Israel. Providing arms, without which Israel could not wreak massive destruction in the Middle East and perpetrate genocide against the Palestinian people, is morally unacceptable. Anyone running for office this fall, Republican, Democrat, and all others, must be challenged to support the nonviolent campaign of boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) on Israel until it abandons its genocidal campaign against Palestinians, continued occupation of large parts of Lebanon and Syria, makes amends to all those it has abused, and dismantles its illegal nuclear arsenal. Ω

Nature Day

by Claire Schaeffer-Duffy

“a whole civilization will be destroyed. . .”

A civilization was not destroyed that day,
Only a family of eight picnicking
beside the bridge to Kharaj
the sky clean blue.

Only a family of eight picnicking
beneath a lamb cloud flicking its hind legs
the wide sky clean blue
sweet tea steaming the father's lips.

Beneath a lamb cloud flicking its legs high
the child rolls the hill to make the world a green
blue top
sweet tea steaming at the father's lips
the moment Thermos and bodies fragment.

The child rolling the hill to spin the world green
blue
cannot see, does not see the bomb
swiftly fragment Thermos and bodies
the black smoke billowing up to swallow the lamb.

Cannot see, does not see the bomb sever
the great bridge, its cables, arteries dangling
the black billows swallowing the lamb
and the green hill scorched still.

The great bridge a gashed arc of arteries dangling
above the family picnicking, one constellation
of love extinguished on a hill now still.
But no civilization was destroyed that day. Ω

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THE

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CATHOLIC



RADICAL

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52 Mason Street, Worcester, MA 01610

Telephone: (508) 753-3588 Email: theresecw2@gmail.com

Founded in 1933 by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, the Catholic Worker is a lay movement serving the poor while denouncing injustice and proclaiming peace. We are not tax exempt. We rely entirely on the generosity of our supporters to meet our expenses. We welcome volunteers, letters, poetry, articles, artwork, and donations. Back issues of The Catholic Radical are available at: <http://archive.org/details/catholicradical/>

Our Second Twenty Years

Editor's Note: The Saints Francis & Thérèse Catholic Worker was founded by Carl Siciliano, Sarah Jeglosky, Dan Ethier, Claire & Scott Schaeffer-Duffy on June 5, 1986. Many volunteers, including Teresa Wheeler, Jo Massarelli, Dave Maher, Mike Benedetti, Ken Hannaford-Ricardi, Brenna Cussen, Cinnamon Sarver, Dave Maciewski, Robert Peters, and hundreds of others made it possible for the community to persist. In 2006, we printed a year-by-year description of significant events. We do so now for the second 20 years.

2007

- Claire goes on a fact-finding trip to the Israeli-occupied West Bank
- Scott helps convince the Worcester City Council to drop investments in Sudan to protest the genocide in Darfur
- 60 sheltered

2008

- Claire, Frida Berrigan, Paul Magno, & 31 others are arrested at the US Supreme Court appealing for Guantanamo detainees.



- Saints Francis & Thérèse CW helps organize Worcesterites to join a march in Boston against the Iraq War



- Saints Francis & Thérèse and the Mustard Seed CW host the 75th Anniversary CW Celebration in Worcester for 500 Catholic Workers from the US, Netherlands, & Germany

- Claire leads the Central Massachusetts Coalition for Middle East Peace's 3rd Annual Middle East Film Festival
- 62 sheltered

2009

- Scott, Brenna Cussen, Mark Collville (New Haven CW), Beth Brockman, Colin Gilbert, & Jenny Thomas join a Catholic Worker Peace Team to deliver medical aid to Gaza & promote peace in the Israeli-occupied West Bank & at the Israeli border of Gaza
- Claire joins the board of Worcester's newly-founded Center for Nonviolent Solutions



- Claire & storyteller Jay O'Callahan go to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Israeli border of Gaza
- 71 sheltered

2010

- Claire speaks at a CW Resistance Retreat in Chicago
- Claire, Scott, Bill Ofenloch, Matt Vogel (NYC CW), Patrick



- O'Neill (Garner, NC CW) Frida Berrigan, and others from the War Resister's League run the Worcester Half Marathon
- 60 sheltered

2011

- Scott, Chris Douçot (Hartford CW), Martha Hennessy (NYC CW), Kathy Kelly & others go fact-finding in Afghanistan
- Claire & her son Aiden, his uncle Eric Schaeffer, aunt Lauren Kenworthy, & his cousins Byron, Jesse & Max go to India
- 28 sheltered

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40th Anniversary

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2012

- Claire, at the invitation of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, flies to the Gulf state to act as an international observer, but is denied entry & returns home
- Scott finishes the Boston, Worcester, & Bay State marathons
- Claire & Patricia Kirkpatrick finish the Worcester Half Marathon
- 86 sheltered

2013

- Scott finishes the Boston Marathon with his son Aiden, just before the bombing. Five months later, Scott finishes the Vermont Marathon
- 67 sheltered

2014

- Claire & Scott finish the Boston Marathon
- Scott finishes the Vermont Marathon
- Claire & Scott join Black Lives Matter marches
- Claire goes to Lebanon & Jordan to report for *National Catholic Reporter* (NCR) on the work of Catholic Relief Services
- 70 sheltered



2015

- Scott finishes the Boston Marathon
- 69 sheltered

2016

- Scott's first book, **Nothing Is Impossible**, is published
- Claire goes to Burundi and Rwanda to report for NCR on the brutal unsolved murder of three religious sisters



- Claire, Scott, CW archivist Phil Runkel, Kathy Boylan (Washington, DC CW), Brian Terrell (CW Farm, Malloy, IA), John Heid (Tucson, AZ CW), Steve Baggarly (Norfolk, VA CW), Steve Jacobs (Columbia, MO CW), and others arrested at Nevada Drone Base after a Las Vegas CW gathering
- 64 sheltered

2017

- Claire, Scott, & Teresa Wheeler join People's Climate March in Washington, DC
- Scott releases **Murder on Mott Street**
- Scott finishes the Boston & Providence marathons
- 42 sheltered

2018

- Claire & Scott, Jackie Allen (Hartford CW), Rich Bishop (Bitterroot CW Farm MT), Dan Burns (Ithaca NY CW), at the US border with Mexico, protest America's extremely restrictive immigration policy



- Claire finishes the Shape NYC Women's Half Marathon
- Scott finishes the Providence Marathon
- Claire & Scott attend a CW Gathering in Dortmund, Germany



- Scott releases **The Man Who Cannot Be Killed**
- 55 sheltered

2019

- Scott releases **Haunted**
- Claire, Johanna Berrigan & Mary Beth Appel (Philadelphia CW), Mary Rider (Garner, NC CW), Kim Williams (Norfolk



VA CW), & Alice McGary (Ames, IA CW Farm) form a CW Pilgrimage to Rome to “speak truth to power” during a Vatican Synod on the Protection of Minors

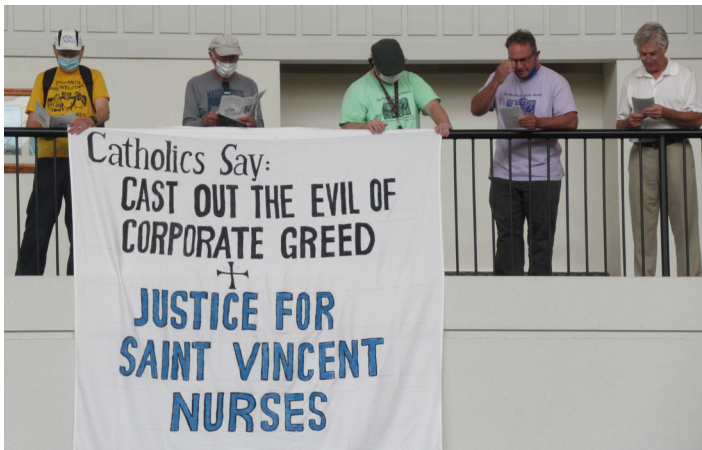
- Claire finishes the Shape NYC Women’s Half Marathon
- Scott hit by a car while racing a 5K on his birthday
- Scott finishes the Boston & Providence marathons
- 38 sheltered

2020

- Claire reports on the Coalition Against Death Alley in the Louisiana bayou
- 22 sheltered (Covid slow us down)

2021

- Claire joins mass protests in Minnesota against the Line 3 Oil Pipeline at the Mississippi headwaters
- Scott finishes the Boston Marathon
- Scott, Al Guilmette, Ammon & Chris Douçot (Hartford CW), and Frank Kartheiser (Mustard Seed CW, Worcester) arrested



- for holding an exorcism of corporate greed to support the Saint Vincent Hospital nurses’ strike in Worcester
- 22 sheltered

2022

- Claire helps convince the Worcester City Council to pass the Back from the Brink Resolution for nuclear disarmament
- Claire & her friend Yael London finish the Shape Women’s Half Marathon in NYC
- Scott & Karen Pajer run a 5K in every city and town in Massachusetts
- 20 sheltered

**2023**

- Claire & Teresa Wheeler join a Moms Demand Action for gun safety protest at the State House in Boston
- Claire joins the Zaporizhia Protection Project on a trip to war-torn Ukraine
- Claire, as a leader of the Center for Nonviolent Solutions, organizes an award-winning Walking Peace Tour of Worcester
- Claire, Scott, & Teresa Wheeler join the “March to end Fossil Fuels” in NYC
- Scott, Jackie Allen (Hartford CW), Mark Colville (New Haven CW), Bill Ofenloch (NYC CW), Ellen Grady (Ithaca, NY, CW), Art Laffin (Washington, DC, CW), Ed Kinane, Paul Magno, & Dan Burgevin arrested for blocking General Dynamic’s nuclear sub engineering building in New London, CT
- Claire & Scott help organize the Mustard Seed CW’s 50th Anniversary Celebration at the College of the Holy Cross
- Claire & the Dorothy Day Guild organizes a Mass for nuclear disarmament celebrated by Archbishop Wester in Manhattan
- Scott, Theresa Grady (Ithaca, NY CW), Carmen Trotta, Kathy Breen, Martha Hennessy, Bill Ofenloch (NYC CW), Steve Baggaly (Norfolk, VA CW), Brian Terrell (CW Farm, Malloy,



- IA), & others are arrested at the US Mission to the UN to support the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
- 20 sheltered

2024

- Scott, Frank Kartheiser (Mustard Seed CW, Worcester), Ellen

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Grady & Mark Scibilia-Carver (Ithaca, NY Catholic Worker), Jackie Allen (Hartford CW) arrested protesting nuclear subs at General Dynamics in New London, CT

• Claire profiled by *Worcester Magazine* as “a mover and shaper” for Women’s History Month

• Claire & Scott hike the 490-mile Camino de Santiago from France to Spain

• Claire, her sister-in-law Patricia Kirkpatrick, and others help host a multi-faith meeting with US Representative Jim McGovern on the need for a Gaza ceasefire

• Claire presents a Gaza ceasefire petition by over 1,500 to the Worcester City Council

• 40 sheltered

2025

• Scott & Claire help initiate a weekly vigil at Worcester’s Federal Building against ICE raids and other Trump administration policies



Hennessy, Bill Ofenloch (NYC CW), Bill Frankel-Streit (Louisia, VA CW), Steve Baggarly (Norfolk, VA CW), Frank Cordaro (Des Moines, IA CW), & Art Laffin (Washington, DC CW) arrested with 18 others praying & singing for peace at the Pentagon

• Claire & Scott, Jackie Allen (Hartford CW), Mark Collville (New Haven CW), Bill Ofenloch & Martha Hennessy (NYC CW), Steve Baggarly (Norfolk, VA CW) Clare Grady (Ithaca, NY CW), & others join the Holy Week Pilgrimage to Abolish Nuclear Weapons led by the CW & the Atlantic Life Community



• Weekly peace vigil in Lincoln Square goes on since 1990

• Claire awarded an MA in English Literature by Worcester State University

• Claire & Scott are among 52 arrested in Washington, DC’s US Senate Building for an interfaith protest against Israeli genocide in Palestine

• Scott releases **Against All Odds**

• Claire joins Charlie Washburn, Frances Anthes, & Mihoko Wakabayashi in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan for the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings

• Scott attends the San Antonio CW’s 40th Anniversary Gathering

• 40 sheltered.

2026

• Claire, Scott, Patrick O’Neill (Garner, NC CW), Martha



• 24 sheltered so far Ω

Letters



Editor's Note: Christ not only calls us to shelter the homeless, but, among other things, to visit the imprisoned. Over the past 40 years, sorry to say, we have only occasionally done so in person. Instead, we have written to many people behind bars. One of them, Richard Deeds, a man with no family, wrote in his last letter:

"...Try serving 45 years in prison with never anyone to call on the phone. I have always felt the lack deeply. And properly so. Utterly by coincidence, in fact, just yesterday it occurred to me quite out of the blue that for practical purposes none of us meaningfully exist beyond our relationships with others...."

We invite our readers to write to him at:

**Richard Deeds #14946
PO Box #650
Indian Springs NV 89070**

Dear Claire and Scott,

I enjoyed reading the article "An Ethos of Peace" in the last edition of *The Catholic Radical*.

It is disturbing and almost surreal to read about Pete Hegseth encouraging his generals to look up the "Christian" prayer for commanders after declaring "lethality" to be the US Military's new "calling card."

On March 25, 2026, the Defense Secretary and Christian nationalist sympathizer, Pete Hegseth, prayed for "overwhelming violence against those who

deserve no mercy." It was unclear if he was referring to Iranian military combatants or to the 175 Iranian school girls that were killed in a US bombing strike.

Four days later, on Palm Sunday, in Saint Peter's Square, Pope Leo seemed to directly refute Hegseth and the Trump administration when he stated that "This is our God: Jesus, King of Peace, who rejects war, whom no one can use to justify war." He also told the gathered worshippers that, "[God] does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war, but rejects them."

Citing a Biblical passage, Leo added, **"Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen: your hands are full of blood."**

As Christians, we should also reject the Administration's "War of Choice" in Iran. Perhaps we should embrace Jesus' command to **"love your enemy"** instead.

**Kevin P. Kelly
Worcester, Massachusetts**

Dear Claire & Scott,

...Your columns in *The Catholic Radical* are "right on." I can hardly believe what one ---ing man and one administration can do to mess up!! Of course, it doesn't happen for no reason and there is blame to be distributed although unequally.

Your mention of SNAFU reminds me of the opposite WWII airforce term, CAVU—"Ceiling and Visibility Unlimited." May it come to pass soon.

**Jane Dewey
Worcester, Massachusetts**

Scott!

I'm laughing out loud at your Marjorie Taylor Green comment [critical of President Trump and his war on Iran] making it "easier to believe Christ rose from the dead." Indeed!

...I appreciated very much how you tried to stay in touch with the hierarchy. I rarely think of that here, but, or course, it's important to educate those guys.

**Judith Kelly
Arlington, Virginia**

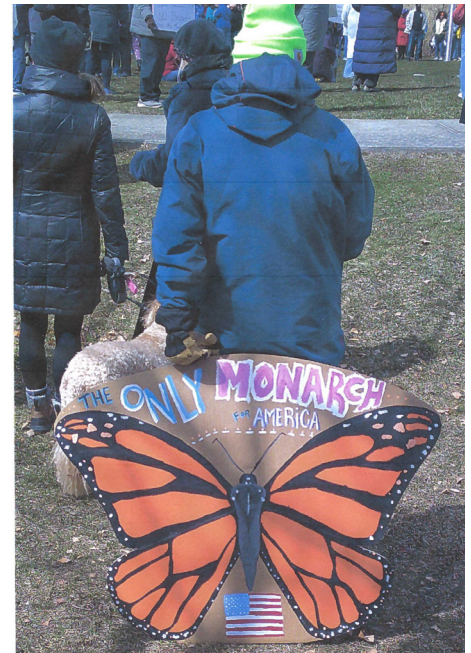
Scott & Claire,

Thank you for your continued passion for peace and justice and love!

The caterpillar is breaking through! What comes out is so beautiful! As so many signs claim, this is the monarch we want. Our wings are developing. We're strong.

Stand-ins in our little town of West Brookfield once were tiny. On No Kings Day: over 500 people! The feeling in the air—in spite of the cold weather—was warm and cheery.

**Phil Milgrom & Nancy Nowak
Warren, Massachusetts**



Catholic Worker Calendar

40th Anniversary Mass - Saturday, June 6: Please join us at 52 Mason Street at 4:30 PM for a liturgy celebrated by Msgr. Frank Scollen. Refreshments will be available afterwards.

June 24 July 15- Evening Prayer: Please join us for prayer with Taizé chant at 52 Mason Street. 7 PM. Refreshments to follow.



Julie Lonnerman

Mason Street Musings

On a Friday in March, Holy Cross college professor Kun Huang and students from her seminar, "Empire and Culture," visited the Catholic Worker. They were only four students, one of whom requested the visit.

"I'm not sure what life on Mason St. has to do with empire and culture," I told Scott. "Let's just give our usual spiel on the Catholic Worker and that should do it." The "usual spiel" being a brief house tour and then a living room talk about the Catholic Worker movement.

The students were an attentive lot, uncomplaining about our broken futon which can snap unpredictably from its upright position into a deep fold. An hour and a half into the visit, I assumed we had done our duty by the college. A bit of fare-welling, I thought, and then it's off to my next task.

But Professor Huang, seated ramrod straight in our reliably stable winged-back chair, showed no sign of leaving. The seminar had a community-based learning component to it, she said, one that came with a small grant. Perhaps the students could

come up with some project at the Catholic Worker; something that could be done over the course of several visits.

My heart quickened. And not in a good way. A busy spring loomed before us due to the mayhem emanating from



Washington, DC and my habit of taking on more commitments than I can manage. I couldn't imagine adding another. Believing the seminar's expansive subject provided a way out, I said I didn't think our particular Catholic Worker had much to offer in the way of empire and culture. We were, after all, such a small operation with only a few

guests . . .

Professor Huang, a young academic of *carpe diem* optimism, didn't seem to hear my attempted refusal. "Some small project," she repeated as she looked at her students, three of whom were folded into the futon, then directly at me. "Let's try."

Needless to say, there was no fare-welling that Friday for the students planned to return the following month to renovate our squatter's garden. During many seasons of agricultural zeal, I had kept the patch clear of invasives and planted seedlings that offered good yield. But it had grown forlorn of late and was now a tangle of dead vegetable stalks framed with rotting planks that provided poor defense against the encroaching knotweed. My 66-year-old back is of limited vigor.

To everyone's surprise, the college awarded the project \$1500, a pot of gold for a Catholic Worker garden.

For three Mondays in April, Professor Huang and her students cleared debris, built garden beds, and filled them with soil. On the second visit, two students joined us for supper and then attended a local screening of *Earth's Greatest Enemy*, Abby Martin's film documenting the environmental costs globally of US militarism. (Now there's empire for you.) On the last afternoon, everyone stayed for a meal.

In early May, the students published a report on their project that is marvelous to read. Here on Mason Court, the newly laid garden beds have inspired a variety of planting and the greening of at least one concrete-laden yard where our neighbor Loy is now seeding grass.

The Holy Spirit works with our yes, even one reluctantly said. In a small way, the students' garden project exemplified Catholic Worker co-founder Peter Maurin's vision of combining scholarly study with agricultural labor to cultivate the good in people. Peter understood how soil, so full of life, provides holy counterpoint to the dehumanization of technology and war. I will miss those students this summer, and their energetic professor. She plans to return to the Catholic Worker next fall with a new class. Ω

Claire

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